



**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM VIRTUAL MEETINGS ON  
THE PROPOSED REVISIONS OF THE  
CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS RECYCLING AND REUSE ORDINANCE**  
Meeting 1: Took place November 4, 2020; 10 – 11 a.m.  
Meeting 2: Took place November 10, 2020; 6 – 7 p.m.

**Virtual Meeting Overview:**

The purpose of the virtual meetings was to share the proposed revisions to the Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Recycling and Reuse Ordinance (Ordinance), and to get feedback from industry stakeholders. The presentation consisted of an overview of the current C&D Ordinance, current State requirements, proposed revisions, and the timeline moving forward. The meeting concluded with a public comment period to clarify and discuss the proposed revisions. Below is a summary of the question and answer portion of the meeting.

**Question and Answer Sessions:**

Q: How are you tracking the diversion of Universal Waste?

A: The plan to track Universal Waste is still currently under development. The idea is to require applicants to submit manifests for Universal Waste and other documentation from facilities when they submit their final compliance reports to show that the project's Universal Waste was properly handled. We will also require applicants to provide plans with the Recycling and Reuse Plans that they submit at the start of the project, which will show what is being demolished and potential universal waste. This will allow staff to estimate how much Universal Waste a project will generate.

Q: When you talk about third-party certification, are you talking about Recycling Certification Institute or another entity?

A: The only third-party certification that we are aware of right now is RCI. We are exploring different third-party certification options. If you know of any other entities or methods available to allow for third-party certification, we welcome your input and feedback and we would be happy to hear more about any other third-parties that are out there. We are also interested in learning about other types of certification programs and what facilities are currently doing to self-certify themselves. Please send us any information you may have about certification programs.

Q: Are you going to require certified scales at all mixed facilities?

A: The requirements for certified scales are an issue that we have discussed during the development of our third-party certification. At this point, we are looking to have an open discussion and get more feedback, so we can develop such requirements and present them at a future meeting.

Q: Many of the plans do not show Universal Waste on them. Will the County be requiring projects to identify the Universal Waste up front when you pull the permit?

A: As part of the requirements for a Recycling and Reuse Plan, a manifest for Universal Waste would be required along with drawings that will include demolition plans so that we can more accurately verify the amount of Universal Waste reported. All this would be required for Public Works to approve an applicant's Recycling and Reuse Plan.

Q: How long will it take for County to certify facilities, such as inert, soil, and green waste facilities that are not currently certified?

A: We are still in the process of considering possible facility certification criteria. At this time there is no committed timetable for certification, however it is expected that there will be a grace period for facilities to get certified.

We are aiming to include more facilities on our list of approved facilities, and we want to work with these facilities to get on the list. Once we finalize the criteria for certification, it will be easier to know how to confirm diversion rates and walk through the process. We will be working to make that as quick and efficient a process as possible so that more facilities can be certified. The more facilities we have that are doing a great job of diverting waste, the better.

Q: Is the definition of Universal Waste going to be updated to look at solar panels, how will this fit in?

A: We will be using the definition provided by the State of California as well as the list of materials that the State provided on their website. Our understanding is that it is a living document that gets updated from time to time. We are hoping the State will continue taking the lead on this and we will adapt to what the State determines is Universal Waste.

We know solar panels have been a big issue lately with all the new facilities being constructed and some of them are reaching their useful life. The State has been looking at the potential to add solar panels to that list of Universal Waste so if that happens, we would be including that in our list. We will keep an eye on that and see what happens moving forward.

Q: Will you use inert facilities as diversion or non-disposal?

A: CalRecycle in its regulations considers materials that are placed in an inert debris engineered fill operation (IDEFO) to be neither diversion nor disposal. However, according to Los Angeles County's integrated waste management program, IDEFOs are disposal facilities and materials disposed in an IDEFO are subject to the solid waste management fee. The C&D Ordinance will not change this. However, in order to provide more flexibility, the C&D Ordinance if approved by the Board of Supervisors will allow applicants for construction and demolition permits to comply with the ordinance by disposing of soil and inert debris at IDEFOs.

Q: Will the County be working with Green Halo as well for waste tracking?

A: We have met with representatives of Green Halo on several occasions and are still in conversation with them. Nothing has fully materialized yet, but it is something that we are looking at. We are familiar with them, and we have looked at their system and we are going to continue to evaluate.

Q: Why is County continuing the practice of using pounds per square foot for estimating? Is the deposit going to be based on the estimated tons?

A: We currently estimate tonnage based on the generation factors developed from a US Environmental Protection Agency study that encompasses a wide variety of projects. But if there is a better way to estimate the tonnage of debris generated from projects, we are open to hear about it. We are proposing to switch to a deposit system that will be based on this estimated tonnage so that applicants will be invested in the recycling of the debris up front. We are open to hearing any other suggestions.